

The attention of our readers generally, but of the Committee on Legislation in particular, is earnestly called to an editorial in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* of July 4, entitled "A Law Against Nasty Advertising in Michigan." An amendment was added to the new Michigan Medical Practice Act authorizing "the Board of Registration in Medicine to revoke the certificate, after due notice and hearing, of any registered practitioner, who inserts advertisements in newspapers, pamphlets, circulars, or other written or printed paper relative to venereal disease or other matter of an obscene or offensive nature derogatory to good morals." This amendment was made possible because of the thorough organization of the medical profession in Michigan. It was actually aided by one or two newspapers! The *Detroit Journal* has for some time refused to receive quack advertisements. This is a worthy amendment and one which should be enacted by all State legislatures, for it attacks what the *Journal* aptly calls the greatest curse of our profession. What has been accomplished in Michigan can also be accomplished in California and other states if committees on legislation will do their duty. Too often the only work done by such committees is to make an annual report to their society of the work done, or attempted, during the year—by others. The Committee on Legislation of the American Medical Association is at present forming an Auxiliary National Committee with representation in every county medical society. Here is work for these committeemen. If each of these men will enter into this work with an earnest purpose to do his duty, such an amendment can be enacted by our next Legislature. A great deal of assistance can incidentally be rendered by the Committee on Legislation of our State Society.

Committees are proverbially slow to get to work and to do that which they are appointed to do; this is especially true of committees of the "standing" variety. What is everybody's business is nobody's business.

County societies should be particularly careful in the selection of committees on admissions, or committees of investigation, and should see that men who will do their duty are placed on such committees. When an application for membership is placed before a society it should be acted upon with as little delay as the organic law of the society permits. There is no excuse for holding an application over for two, three or four meetings (an actual experience reported to the *JOURNAL*) without any action—all because the proper committee has not reported. When men accept such positions they should do so with the clear understanding that the honor carries with

it some responsibility, some work to do, and they should see to it that they do their duty. Too long has the idea maintained that an office in a medical society is a delicately conferred compliment. If we are ever to lift ourselves out of the slough, to clean ourselves up and do the things that we ought to, each and every officer in each and every component society will have to awaken to the fact that there is something for him to do—in addition to making a nice little speech of acceptance of the honor conferred upon him. The only way to get anything done is to do it; the only way for us to build up and strengthen our organization is for every man to do what he agreed to when he accepted an office.

One very important asset of complete organization of the medical profession is the ability to get rid of illegal practitioners.

ORGANIZATION AND THE QUACK The illegal practitioner thrives well, when let alone, and is a menace to the community upon which he preys. If he has a degree and will not take an examination for a license, it is because he knows his own ignorance and fears the result; if he has no degree he is even one stage worse in the class of fakers. In either event he should be removed. One great object of organization is to locate first, and then get rid of, these quacks. It can easily be done when all reputable practitioners unite, point out the illegal ones, and then coöperate in their removal. This work should properly be in the hands and under the direction of the Board of Medical Examiners, and it is a pleasure to note that the Board is doing all it can under the circumstances to prosecute these gentry. But every member of the Society should help in the work. Each member who knows of an illegal practitioner or one whose license is not on record, should at once notify the Board of Examiners. Please send such names either to the President of the Board, Dr. Dudley Tait, 1054 Post Street, San Francisco; Dr. George G. Gere, Secretary of the Board, Parrott Building, San Francisco, or to this office. The *JOURNAL* will be glad to forward such names to the Board.

In accordance with the instructions of the last House of Delegates, the Board of Trustees has actively undertaken the work of organization of county societies in counties where they do not exist. During the months of September and October three such county societies were brought into life, and arrangements have been made for organizing several others. We desire to appeal to every member of the Society for aid in this work. Surely each one knows someone, either in his own county or in some other, who is not a member of a county society. If your friend lives in a county where there is